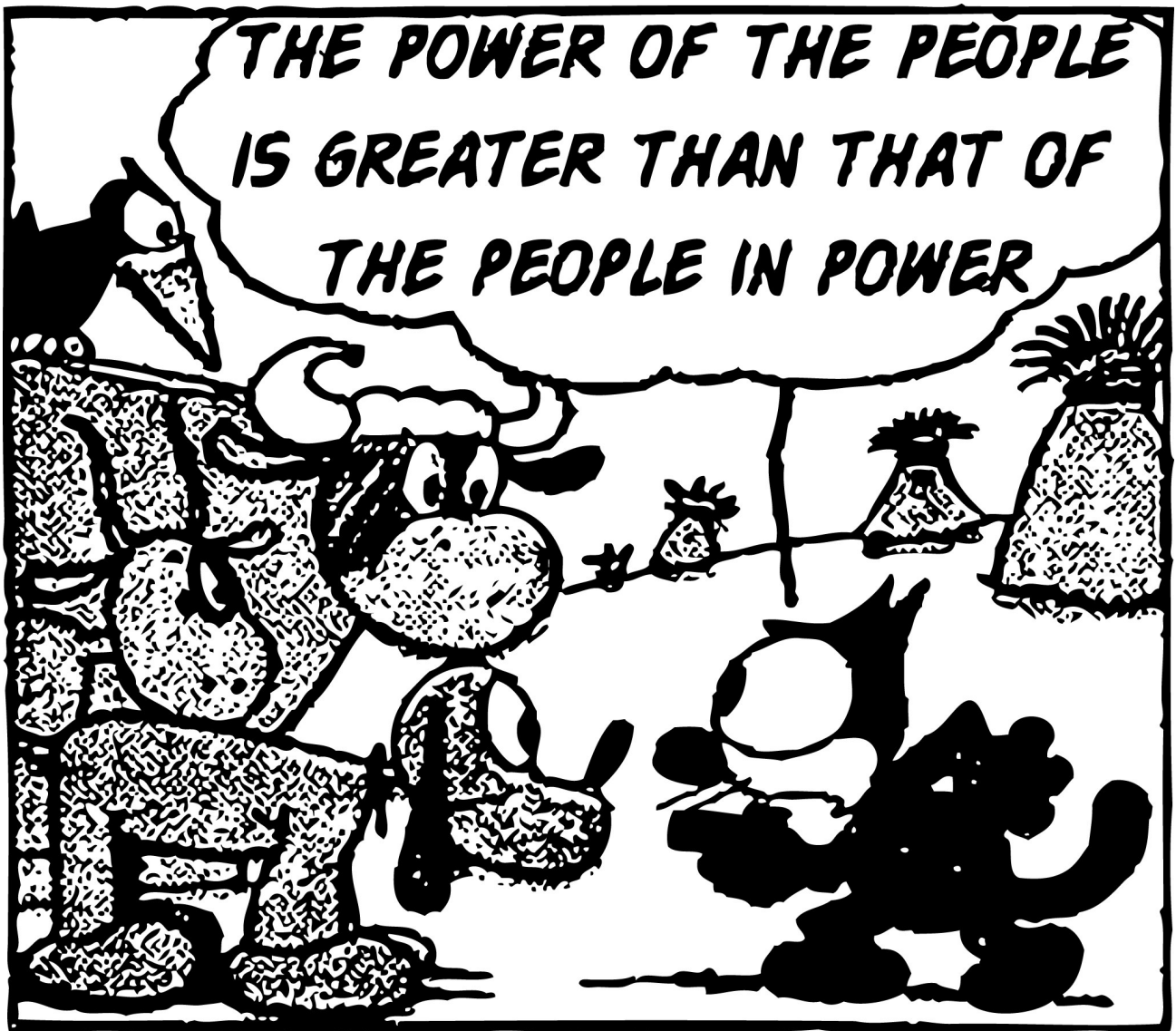


REBEL CITY

LONDON'S ANARCHIST PAPER | ISSUE NO.9 | FREE/DONATION



**We DON'T
need leaders**

**TAKE A PEEK INSIDE
AND FIND OUT WHY...**

“Nothing is more important than stopping fascism because fascism will stop us all. We don’t hate White people. We hate the oppressor, whether they be White, Black, Brown or Yellow. We will work with anybody, coalesce with anybody that has revolution on their mind. But anybody that comes into our community and sets up anything that does not meet the needs of the masses, I will grab him by the neck and beat that man to death with a Black Panther paper.”

Fred Hampton.



Black Panther Fred Hampton was born in Summit, Illinois. An outward looking revolutionary, he was instrumental in making links between the Panthers and working class white and Latinx radicals. Alliances were built along class lines, with a common enemy: the political and economic elite of Chicago.

He was assassinated by the police while he slept aged just 21.

SADIQ KHAN, FRIEND OF THE PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

"I welcome the fact that we have got 140-plus billionaires in London. That's a good thing. I welcome the fact that there are more than 400,000 millionaires. That's a good thing."

Sadiq Khan



Sadiq Khan is in a line of London Mayors who promised much and delivered very little. Ken Livingstone encouraged the property developers and the growth of the skyscrapers imposing a Manhattan skyline. Boris Johnson said this wouldn't happen on his watch, and guess what, it did. Sadiq Khan was elected London Mayor on pledges that included building more affordable homes and controlling the property developers.

How has he done so far? Well he's been big on rhetoric about controlling the property developers and creating more affordable housing. But remember one of his pledges was to be "the most pro-business mayor in history". He promised he would support housing associations build 80,000 new homes a year. Well apart from many of these self-same housing associations increasingly betraying social housing, this hasn't happened. In fact in 2016 in the first year of his term not a single social housing home was built. Since then something over 1200 social rent homes have been built in London, hardly the 80,000 homes promised.

In June of this year he produced a list of 12,500 'affordable' (affordable for whom?) homes built under a newbuild scheme. In actual fact these figures were tweaked and included many sites that had not got anywhere near actually building these homes. In fact in two cases, developments registered as starts under Johnson were re-registered as new starts under Khan.

Khan is no friend of working class people. The waves of gentrification that started under previous London mayors resulting in mass social cleansing with many not being able to afford to live in London, continues under Khan.

London is a centre for speculation and profiting from property. Land and housing in London have become extremely profitable commodities. The 140 billionaires that Khan praises make their money off of this corrupt system. Sixty per cent of the London skyscrapers and many luxury homes are owned by either wealthy individuals or overseas companies.

What is happening to London is supported by all the political parties including Labour. Labour councils are as much to blame for the gentrification and social cleansing as the Tories. Khan has done nothing to stop any of this whilst attempting to both be a friend to big business and the property developers whilst making fake promises about social housing.

We cannot rely on Sadiq Khan, he is not on our side. Instead get involved in the various struggles across London that are fighting for social housing and against gentrification.

HARINGEY LABOUR COUNCIL AND THE HDV

MEET THE NEW BOSSES, SAME AS THE OLD BOSSES?



**RECLAIM
OUR
ESTATES**

**RESIST
OCCUPY
TAKE CONTROL**

There are serious rumblings of discontent within the ranks of Labour Party members/door knockers/vote beggars in Haringey. Through an indicative vote, over 70% of them showed a preference for an anti-HDV (Haringey Development Vehicle) candidate to be selected as leader of the council. Those members were of course completely ignored by the new 'left-wing' councillors who proceeded to choose yet another long-term careerist gravy-train rider - one who has a very patchy record on social cleansing and working with developers, Joseph Ejiofor (Business Development Consultant). The HDV meant handing over millions of pounds worth of our property to multinational developers and industrial blacklisters, Lendlease. The council will of course still work with Lendlease or Lendlease subsidiaries - the names have been changed, but it won't protect the innocent.

The whole anti-HDV campaign was in effect hijacked by the notion that once we get 'left wing' councillors, and once previous leader Claire Kober (now working for property developers) and Oxbridge housing/regeneration officer Alan Strickland (now working for property developers) had been deposed, those new 'left wing' councillors would act with some integrity. They might actually choose to fight for the people that they are supposed to represent. Instead of which, surprise surprise, they've all turned out to be just the same - politicians who will never stand up and fight the government on cuts or 'regeneration' or social cleansing. Who will never attempt to mobilise the community in defiance of murderous Tory policies. Who will continue to play the same dog-eared political games.

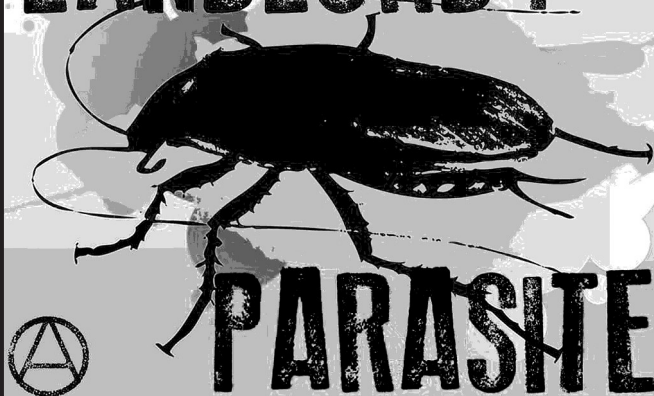
The HDV campaign never made serious inroads into the affected estates precisely because it was tied to the Labour Party and the Labour Party on the streets of Tottenham and on those estates after decades of managed decline, is a sick joke.

There was a 38.7% turnout at the local elections in Haringey, which means the tiny minority of the electorate who actually voted Labour, handed power to yet more ambitious, inadequate creatures to run our town hall (actually they've sold the town hall and it's going to be 're-imagined' by off-shore developers as a 'Boutique Hotel').

That minority of voters gave them the authority to further flog off property that was fought for over generations to parasite developers and greedy bastard landlords. They authorised them to privatise and cut the rest of our services, to raise council-tax to unaffordable levels and to give themselves huge pay-rises. The Labour Party have been in power in this borough for more than 60 years and the end result of a one party state, is a despicable pastiche of what a socialist society should look like.

The 'failed state' politicians at Haringey Labour Council, have sold, and will continue to sell, their undemocratic, moribund, arses into total obsolescence.

LANDLORD?



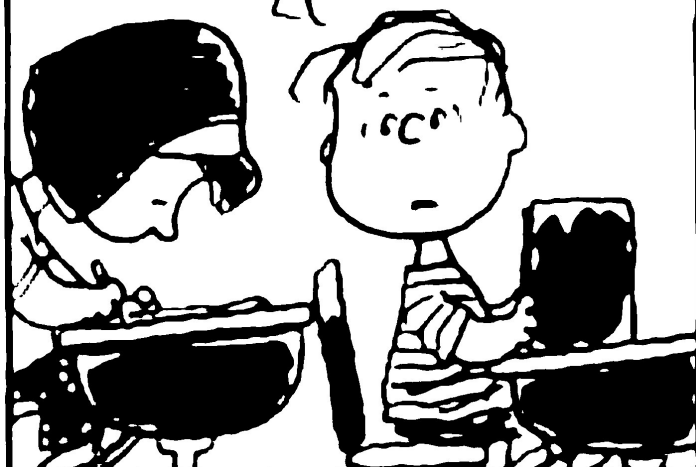
“Soaring rents in London rose 60% faster than pay since 2011.”

Aided and abetted by corrupt politicians in national and local government cabals, property has become an easy way to make money off of the backs of other people. Buy-To-Let merchants, Airbnb grabbers, landlord parasites, letting agents, estate agents, property developers, landlord MPs, landlord local councillors - they are all at the trough and we should be making war on them. Yet somehow, this exploitation has become normalised and we blindly accept the gradual erosion of our rights as human beings.

This land was stolen by violence from the people and we have allowed ourselves and future generations, to be treated as wage-slaves, serfs, tenant cash-cows and temporary dwellers with no rights.

Rent is theft!

NO ONE IS GOING TO GIVE YOU THE EDUCATION YOU NEED TO OVERTHROW THEM.



“Students who acquire large debts putting themselves through school are unlikely to think about changing society. When you trap people in a system of debt, they can’t afford the time to think. Tuition fee increases are a ‘disciplinary technique,’ and, by the time students graduate, they are not only loaded with debt, but have also internalized the ‘disciplinarian culture.’ This makes them efficient components of the consumer economy.”

Noam Chomsky

Education has become a subject of rampant interest to global capital - big business has moved in on property development for overpriced student rentals, on low-paid cleaning and catering services and on the students themselves through finance and massive, life-changing debt. All this, willingly facilitated by greedy, obsolete Vice-Chancellors and Principals and Heads on hugely inflated pay packages and by assorted compliant box-tickers.

Like never before, students need to stop allowing themselves to be used as cash-cows for the education industry and start to question authority.

JOHN ROAN RESISTS

By Svartfrosk



A coalition of parents, staff and students are fighting an order to change their school into an academy, a form of privatisation with all the problems that brings.

In 2016, Greenwich council tried to get John Roan School, a comprehensive in Greenwich, to become an academy. Parents, teachers and students came together, calling themselves 'John Roan Resists' and succeeded in getting the academy scheme stopped. However, the University Schools Trust (UST - a would-be Academy chain) was brought in to 'support' the school in September 2017.

In March, Ofsted inspected and decided the school was inadequate. And on 12th June the government issued an order to John Roan to convert to an academy, under the UST. Oddly enough, there were senior leaders and governors party to the decision paid by UST. The already-established group swung into action straight away, with a successful public meeting, days of strike action by teachers and effective lobbying of the council and local MP who are both on record as saying they want the school to stay under local authority control. Parents have crowd-funded a legal challenge to the Ofsted report, arguing it is flawed. And the school has not yet been taken over by the UST.

Academisation in other parts of the country has led to schools becoming exam factories with high teacher burnout and ridiculous stories like kids being sent home for wearing the wrong sort of shoes. Union reps are usually the first out of the door and senior management can reap huge pay increases. A multi-academy trust in Woolwich has two headteachers on a combined salary of £270,000, both heading up the same school! Elsewhere, despite huge amounts of public money thrown at these companies, they continue to fail and leave schools in turmoil having to be bailed out by other Academy chains or the local council.

DON'T CHOKE ON THAT COFFEE MATE!



“You could make even the price of a cup of coffee political” said a friend taking the piss. Then on the bus home I started to think. Is coffee (or tea) political? I started doing some research.

Turns out, ‘Cash crops’ like coffee are generally grown in poorer countries and sold to the west - always an unequal deal. Valuable land is used for coffee growing instead of used to produce food for local people to eat. Why? Because landowners make more money selling coffee to us than food for local people.

The workers then get paid crap wages, if at all. Argue and they are sacked or beaten up and many who organise for better conditions have been killed. I’m starting to see how my coffee is a political issue.

Some westerners then invented ‘Fair-trade’. Poorer people in developing countries are convinced to set up businesses and sell coffee at a ‘fairer price’ to us in the West. We get our coffee and, it’s claimed, local people get a fair price. But Fair-trade is a con. Research has shown local producers don’t benefit and when they do, rich gits (businessmen, politicians, gang leaders) still keep food prices high, so people go hungry.

To meet our demand for coffee, land is needed, so trees are cut down causing flooding, environmental problems and destroying animal habitats.

To keep pests of the crop, landowners spray them with chemicals which use huge amounts of natural resources to produce and cause damage to local people, the land and water supplies. Unsurprisingly these chemicals are made by multinationals who don’t give a shit about people or the environment - only profit.

We then transport these cash crops round the globe in hugely polluting ships. A recent report claimed: “the 15 biggest ships produce more sulphur oxide pollutants than all the cars in the world”.

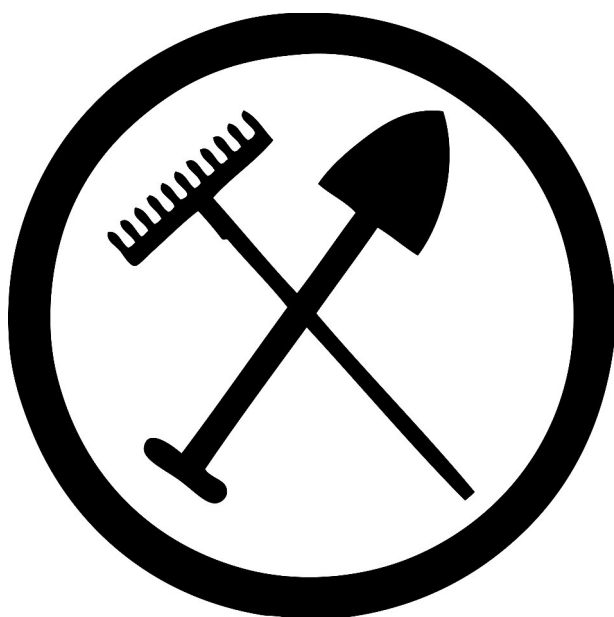
Once the coffee gets here it doesn’t get any better. Overpriced chains, such as Costa Coffee, now owned by Coca Cola, start to appear on our high streets. Local shops are pushed out as rents increase and gentrification soon follows, forcing working class people out of areas we call home. It’s colonisation by the rich for the rich.

It doesn’t stop there. Most Baristas are on low pay, zero hours’ contracts and terrible employment rights. Many claim benefits on top of working long hours just to survive. Like their fellow workers who pick the stuff, speak out and you’ll get sacked.

And then there is the price of it. Who profits for that coffee you’re drinking? It ain’t the workers who pick it, process it, or serve it. From the fat cats who own the farms, to the people who turn it into a drink, to the transportation companies and the shop owners. It’s the bosses and they are raking it in and laughing all the way to the bank. And we haven’t even mentioned all those who ‘trade’ in cash crops - making millions on world stock markets without getting off their fat arses.

So yeah, even if we don’t want to admit it, coffee (and tea) is political. So are a lot of things when you stop and think about it. I reckon we need a revolution to sort all this crap out.

GUERRILLA GARDENING - JUST DO IT!



guerilla gardening
the activity of growing plants without permission on land that belongs to someone else or on public land, with the aim of improving the environment or producing vegetables or flowers for people to use or enjoy

Starting a project to make a change in your neighbourhood can seem to be a daunting prospect. Yes, there are grassroots community projects that are complex and there are probably good reasons for that - changing the world is not an easy business and a degree of organisation is required. However, there are things you can do which don't require a lot of organisation or hours writing funding applications. Guerilla gardening is one of those things you can do...

Working on a community plot not only has the obvious benefit of ensuring a supply of fresh vegetables and fruit - it's also a way of building neighbourhood solidarity and resilience. If there's an awkward shaped smallish plot of land in your neighbourhood that's been neglected and no one's sure who owns or has responsibility for it, why not do a bit of guerilla gardening?

Canvas opinion in the immediate neighbourhood to see how much support there is for the idea of transforming the plot from an eyesore into a community asset. Find out who's willing to help you work on it and then work out a plan for what you want to do.

You could ask for permission if you want but if the land has been neglected for years, then whoever is responsible for it obviously doesn't care about the impact of their neglect on your neighbourhood so...just get on with it! On the estates Basildon & Southend Housing Action operate on, there are a number of small pocket gardens that have been set up by residents without going through a laborious process of asking Basildon council for permission. So far, the council haven't batted an eyelid and to be honest, they haven't got the resources to start trying to force the closure of community gardens.

There's a welcome, non-violent anti-authoritarian aspect to guerilla gardening that should be embraced. While at one level, it's about making your neighbourhood a better place to live, at a more fundamental level, it's asking questions about land ownership and control. Also, with uncertainty about the outcome of Brexit and this summer's drought leading to lower than normal crop yields, food prices are set to rise steeply. Starting up a community vegetable plot gives you some control over where your food comes from.

The other benefits are building a feeling of solidarity and cohesion in your neighbourhood as people get together to work on a common project. A project that as it matures will give people a sense of pride in and responsibility towards their neighbourhood and boost community morale.

A confidence booster that can inspire people to take on bigger and more complex projects that will start to lead to real, meaningful change.

Start small, gain confidence, start to think bigger but above all...just do it!



WHAT'S BREXIT GOT TO DO WITH US?



Death by a thousand cuts for social housing and the NHS; more and more homeless on the street. Working for shit wages on the days they give you work - if you crawl up the boss's arse with sufficient enthusiasm.

What's a referendum where we got to choose whether we want to be screwed inside or outside the EU got to do with anything?

Both sides lied like crazy. Both sides pretended to be doing it for us. Leave won.

Cue for the economists, bankers and businessmen to bring out doomsday scenarios (once it was obvious their prediction that a Leave vote would precipitate a currency crash proved wrong): The financial sector will flee; food will rot in the fields without cheap migrant labour; business and the service sector will fail without the skilled migrant workers they don't have to train. Cue for an outpouring of chatterati vitriol against the racist proles who'd crapped on their parade. Wealthy Remainers were worried they might lose their Latino cleaners, Polish builders, and other cheap workers that support their lifestyle. Lots of people who voted Leave hoped they'd end up with a job. Even if you know it's not immigrants but bosses who cause low wages, you might still think your best chance of a job is to get rid of the competitors.

And, contrary to Remainer mythology, Leave wasn't all about immigrants. Some people - Right and Left, anti- and pro-immigrant - took Leave propaganda about 'taking our country back from the EU bureaucrats' seriously. Some think it is the only way Corbynism could be possible

The rise of the 'far-right' is blamed on Brexit. That's

rubbish. After years of thousands of refugees drowning, the clamour rose to a crescendo with Merkel's brief opening of the German border a year before the Referendum. The rise of the far-right came on the back of the Left's global surrender to the power of big business - whether in the UK, mainland Europe, the US, Turkey, India or wherever. And it came long before Brexit.

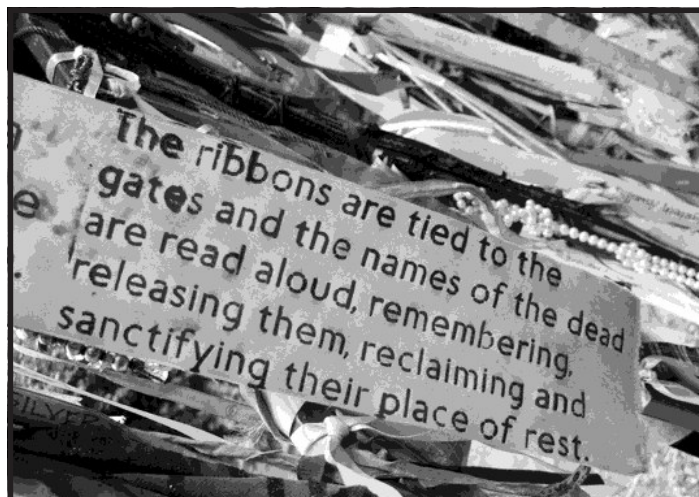
Many people have pinned their hopes on a radical Labour government. It's worth remembering that the supposedly radical Labour government of 1945 sent conscript troops into the Surrey Docks within a week of taking office to break a ten week-old dockers' 'go-slow'. They repeatedly sent in troops against rebellious workers throughout their time in office. Maybe Corbyn won't use troops against strikers, but he's already told Labour Councils to implement 'legal' (i.e. austerity) budgets and put a Blairite Remainer in charge of his EU strategy. This alongside the strategy of turning grassroots campaigns into tools of the Labour party.

Whether Right or Left, what governments are really terrified of is ordinary people refusing to be conned by the promises of politicians and taking action for themselves. Because the one thing that has a chance of getting us what we want (not what they tell us we should have) is by deciding what it is and fighting for it together.



This decommissioned T-34 Tank sits on scrubland at the corner of Mandela Way and Pages Walk in Bermondsey, SE1. Soviet Union built, for World War Two, the T-34 was widely considered the world's best tank at the time.

After being used in the filming of Richard III in 1995, the above machine was bought by a local person for £7,000 and installed in its current location. The iconic tank is often graffitied by local artists and its colour and message is regularly changed. Local legend claims the tank's gun is pointed at Southwark Council's planning/social cleansing offices, who are responsible for the gentrification of Elephant & Castle and the dismemberment of working class communities in the borough - praise the lord and pass the feckin' ammunition.



THE OUTCAST DEAD

“Ordinary Londoners - honest, hard working but very poor people who really built the city but are not generally remembered”

Crossbones Burial Ground is a 'paupers' mass grave in Red Cross Way, Southwark that has been turned into a memorial shrine and garden by local people - as many as 15,000 men, women and children are buried here. The site is owned by Transport For London and of course they want to 'develop' it into luxury dwellings - cheered on by Southwark Labour Council (who reside in the pockets of the landlord and the property parasite).

At a time when 'paupers funerals' in our city have risen by 50% in the last four years and London becomes a socially cleansed wealth-ghetto, there will be no room for even a memory of our class. Time for the Outcasts to rise up...

A dedicated group of volunteers are working to make sure those buried are never forgotten. Details of what they do and upcoming events can be found on the Crossbones Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/GooseandCrow/>

FAN-OWNED FOOTBALL IS THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN FOR FAMOUS TONS

- **Clapton FC fans and Life Members have united to establish a fan-owned club**
- **There is a temporary move to Walthamstow for the 2018-19 season**
- **Court battle over the Spotted Dog continues, as local politicians back fight**

Fans of Clapton FC joined the club's surviving Life Members and announced they will field a team for the 2018/19 season. Following a deeply unsettled off-pitch period for The Tons, supporters, volunteers and members decided a break with the entity affiliated to the Essex Senior League was needed to preserve the legacy of one of London's oldest football clubs. This announcement came just days after Clapton's entire youth team structure decided to quit the beleaguered outfit and move to a rival club. The Life Members, whose connection to the club traces back to the early 1900s, voted with fans to re-establish a functioning members' club that is open to all, with transparency and inclusivity as its key values.

The club playing in the Essex Senior League is supposed to be a members' club by its constitution. However, the 'Tons Members Club', under the present administration, has been 'closed for restructuring' for over 6 years. Fans and members boycotted home games for the whole of the 2017-18 season when the club's chief executive attempted to liquidate the charity running the club's historic Old Spotted Dog ground in Forest Gate. Average attendances fell from 366 the season before, to 52 last season, including officials and away fans.

Clapton CFC

The revamped, fan-owned Clapton is now competing in the Middlesex Counties Football League. The club is known as Clapton Community Football Club. Or Clapton CFC for short.

Members' owned co-operative

Tons supporters, famed for being some of the

most fervent in non-league, once again get to decide how their club is run. Set up as a co-operative, each member has an equal vote in the direction fan-owned Clapton CFC will take. Hundreds of members have already signed up and the process is open to all. The club's mission statement champions community football and its aim is to build on the fantastic work of fan groups like the Clapton Ultras in promoting wider community participation in local, grassroots football.

Temporary new home while High Court fight goes on

Clapton CFC's first action will be a temporary relocation to Wadham Lodge, now known as 'The Stray Dog', in Kitchener Road, Walthamstow, 3 train stops from E7, and 2 stops from where it all began in Clapton. The fight to save the Old Spotted Dog, London's oldest senior football ground, from liquidation is ongoing and is set to go to trial at the High Court, in a process that could run into 2019. This fight is backed by over 1750 people who have signed an online petition calling for the Old Spotted Dog to remain a community asset. Formed in 1877, Clapton have played at the Old Spotted Dog since 1887.

Clapton last played its home games in E17 during the mid-1880s, just before the club made the permanent move to the Old Spotted Dog. Supporters remain positive that this could be a good omen as they eye a bright future for a members-run community football club back in E7 as soon as possible.



"I am delighted that having hibernated, our historic Club is reawakening"

Michael Fogg

Clapton Life Member

ABOUT REBEL CITY

Rebel City aims to cover all issues of importance to working class Londoners. We argue for a radical transformation of our city. Rebel City is collectively produced by a range of groups and individuals. 16 pages of quality anarchist reporting and analysis. Get it at Housmans and Freedom Bookshops, your local social centres, or from a friendly anarchist in the street or contact us and we'll mail you a copy! Get involved. Contribute articles and information. Take bundles and distribute them among your neighbours and workmates.

Contact: rebelcitylondon@gmail.com

Thanks to Aldgate Press for printing and Dave A. for lay-out.

DIRECTORY

Get involved!

Here is a selection of campaigns and groups that are helping to make London the Rebel City.

LONDON-WIDE

Anarchist Communist Group - London: <https://londonacg.blogspot.co.uk>
Anarchist Federation: <https://aflondon.wordpress.com/>
Angry Workers: <https://angryworkersworld.wordpress.com/>
Anti-Raids Network: <https://www.facebook.com/antiraid/>
Advisory Service for Squatters: <https://www.squatter.org.uk/>
Black Lives Matter: <https://www.facebook.com/BLMLondon/>
Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union: <http://caiwu.org.uk/wp/>
Community Food Growers Network: <http://www.cfgn.org.uk/>
Disabled People against Cuts: <http://dpac.uk.net/>
Empty Cages - campaign to abolish prisons: <http://www.prisonabolition.org/>
Feminist Fightback: <http://www.feministfightback.org.uk/>
Industrial Workers of the World: <https://www.iww.org.uk/londongmb>
Land Justice Network: <https://www.landjustice.uk/>
London Anti-fascists: <https://londonantifascists.wordpress.com/>
Radical Housing Network: www.radicalhousingnetwork.org
Reclaim the Power: <https://reclaimthepower.org.uk/>
Sisters Uncut: <http://www.sistersuncut.org/>
Solidarity Federation: <http://www.solfed.org.uk/local/south-london>
#spycops info: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/spycops/>
United Voices of the World: <https://www.uvwunion.org.uk/>

LOCAL GROUPS AND CAMPAIGNS

Friends of Queen's Market - Upton Park: <http://www.friendsofqueensmarket.org.uk/>
Haringey Solidarity Group: local group that campaigns on a variety of issues, such as workfare, as well as producing a regular paper: <http://www.haringey.org.uk/content/>
Haringey Housing Action Group: <http://haringeyhousingaction.org.uk/>
Stop HVD - against the sell-off of public land: www.StopHVD.com
Housing Action Greenwich and Lewisham: <http://www.housingactiongl.com/>
Housing Action Southwark and Lambeth: <https://housingactionsouthwarkandlambeth.wordpress.com/>
North East London Migrant Action: <https://nelmacampaigns.wordpress.com/>
Reclaim Holloway: <http://reclaimholloway.strikingly.com/>
South Essex Working Class Action: <https://www.facebook.com/southessexwca/>

BOOKSHOPS AND SOCIAL CENTRES

56a Infoshop: <http://56a.org.uk/>
Freedom: <https://freedompress.org.uk/>
Larc: <http://larc.space/>
Housemans: <http://www.housmans.com/>
DIY Space for London: <https://diyspaceforlondon.org/>
MayDay Rooms: <http://maydayrooms.org/>

Check the different organisations and campaigns for more events and actions.



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